



**Office of the City Clerk**  
**BOARDS, COMMITTEES & COMMISSIONS**

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**CITY MAGISTRATES MERIT  
SELECTION COMMISSION**

**CREATED BY:**

Tucson City Code, § 8-2.1

**MEMBERS:**

There shall be nine members composed as follows:

- Four attorney members appointed by the County Bar Association not more than two of whom shall be of the same political party.
- Five non-attorney members: Three of whom shall be selected by members of the Governing Body who represent the political party in the majority; and two of whom shall be selected by members of the Governing Body who represent the political party of the minority. Of the five non-attorney members not more than three shall be of the same political party.

**QUORUM:**

For the purpose of conducting the business of the commission, a quorum shall consist of five members.

**QUALIFICATIONS:**

Must be of the respective political parties set forth above. The four members appointed by the County Bar Association must be attorneys. None of the members shall hold any other elective or appointive public office or be a member of law enforcement, and no attorney member shall be eligible for appointment to the office of magistrate until one year ceasing to be a member of the commission.

**TERMS OF OFFICE:**

All members shall serve four-year terms.

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**EXEMPT FROM TCC 10A-134:** No

**FUNCTIONS:**

**New appointments:** Within ninety days from the occurrence of a vacancy in the office of magistrate or at the request of mayor and council, the commission shall recommend to the mayor and council the names of not more than three persons in ranked order to fill the position of magistrate or satisfy such request. Any candidate shall be: 1) Of good moral character, 2) A resident of Arizona for one year immediately preceding recommendation, and 3) Admitted to the practice of law in Arizona for five years immediately preceding recommendation.

**Reappointments:** No later than nine months prior to the expiration of their term, a magistrate may apply for reappointment in writing to the mayor and council. Upon such notice, the magistrate merit selection commission shall review the term of the magistrate and submit a written report of its findings to the mayor and council, which shall include a recommendation as to the reappointment. Such report shall be submitted at least ten days prior to the expiration of the term.

**Special Magistrates:** Upon request of the presiding judge of the superior court and subject to the appointment procedures set for the regular magistrates, the mayor and council may appoint special magistrates, as needed, to assist in the timely adjudication of city court cases.

Special magistrates shall serve a four-year term of office, and may be reappointed.

**Limited Special Magistrates:** Subject to the appointment procedures set for the regular magistrates, the mayor and council may appoint limited special magistrates to provide for the expeditious enforcement of civil violations and civil infractions of the Tucson Code and civil traffic violations under state law.

Limited special magistrates shall be full time, shall serve a four-year term of office, and may be reappointed.

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETING LAW REQUIREMENTS:**

This public body must comply with all provisions of the Open Public Meeting Law, including that a record of all meetings be maintained.

**BCC TERMINATION REQUIREMENTS:** This is an on-going commission.

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**SUPPORTING DEPARTMENT(S):**

City Clerk                      791-4213

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*Historical Notes:*

*Original: "four attorney members appointed by the county bar association, not more than two of whom shall be registered Republicans and two of whom shall be registered Democrats,. . . ."*

*October 21, 1996 Mayor and Council adopted Ordinance No. 8767 relating to City Commissions; membership on City Magistrate Merit Selection Commission; amending Tucson Code, Chapter 8, Article I, by amending Section 8-2.1 "appointments composed of four attorney members appointed by the county bar association, not more than two of whom shall be of the same political party. . . ."*

*October 11, 2004 Mayor and Council adopted Ordinance 10062 relating to City Court; Amending the Tucson Code, Chapter VIII, Article I, Section 8-2.1 Methods of Appointment of Magistrates and Qualifications; Establishing Senior Special Magistrate Status and Compensation; Section 8-4 Magistrates; Powers and Duties; Section 8-4.1 Authorizing assignment of an Associate Presiding Magistrate, Term, Compensation.*

*October 11, 2004 Mayor and Council adopted Ordinance 10063 relating to City Court; Amending the Tucson Code, Chapter VIII, Article I, Section 8-2.2 Appointment of Special Magistrates; Terms of Office; Compensation; Powers; Duties; Qualifications; Section 8-2.3 Appointment of Limited Special Magistrates; Term; Powers; Duties; Qualifications; Compensation.*